

I am proud to introduce the Medicare transitional Care Act of 2012, legislation to aid patient transitions from one care setting to another within our health care system. The legislation will improve patient health outcomes, reduce hospital readmissions, and save valuable healthcare resources.

When people leave the hospital after an operation or illness, they are often overwhelmed by a complicated and risky road to recovery. Patients frequently report difficulty remembering clinical instructions, confusion over medications, and in cases where multiple providers are involved, can receive conflicting instructions from different providers.

A study published in April 2009 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that almost one third of Medicare beneficiaries studied who were discharged from a hospital were re-hospitalized within 90 days. Additionally, one-half of the individuals re-hospitalized had not visited a physician since their discharge, suggesting a lack of follow-up care. The study estimated that Medicare spent \$17.4 billion in 2004 on unplanned re-hospitalizations.

In its June 2012 Report, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, MedPAC, highlighted the need for an explicit payment for transitional care services, given the documented evidence that effective and coordinated care transitions improve health outcomes, reduce readmission rates, and generate significant savings to the U.S. health care system. The Congressional Budget Office has echoed these findings. In a report documenting lessons from Medicare's demonstration projects, the CBO emphasized that "programs that smoothed transitions (for example, by providing additional education and support to patients moving from a hospital to a nursing facility or between a primary care provider and a specialist) tended to have fewer hospital admissions."

There are some well-established and peer-reviewed programs that could be adopted. For example, the Transitions Care Model, which assigns a transitional care nurse during the transition period, has resulted in cost savings of approximately \$5,000 per patient. Other models also have demonstrated savings, such as the Care Transitions Intervention model, which provides patients with a transitions coach and self-management tools, has reduced hospital readmission rates from 20 percent to 12.8 percent, while Project Better Outcomes for Older adults through Safe Transitions, BOOST, which provides hospitals with management tools and mentoring programs to improve the discharge transition process, resulted in lower rates of mortality and 30-day readmissions rates dropped from 25.5 percent to 8.5 percent for those under age 70.

It is our hope that stakeholders involved in the care delivery system will carefully evaluate this legislation and provide comments or suggested improvements to me and the other sponsors. We are interested in ensuring that the legislation's terms are adequately tailored to the different circumstances and settings in which these transitions occur.

Providing a transitional care benefit within Medicare will help coordinate care, develop a care plan for patients and their caregivers, identify potential health risks, and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations. I thank my cosponsors and look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation.

IN HONOR OF MR. DALE MILLER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dale Miller, a member of the Cuyahoga County Council serving the Second District.

Councilman Miller was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1949 and graduated from Garfield Heights High School in 1967. He attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, earning a bachelor's degree in psychology. Dale later earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Utah, before eventually returning to his hometown of Cleveland shortly after graduation.

Dale has been active in public service throughout his life. As a college student, he was an intern for United States Senator Howard Metzenbaum. He served on the Cleveland City Council for nine terms beginning in 1979, in the Ohio House of Representatives from 1997 to 2006, and in the Ohio Senate from 2006 to 2010. He chose not to seek reelection to the Ohio Senate in 2010, deciding instead to run for the new Cuyahoga County Council.

Throughout his career, Miller has been honored on numerous occasions. He is the recipient of a Louis Stokes Award, State Leadership Award, and Community Leadership Award. He was also named the Legislator of the Year by the AFL-CIO and Public Children's Association of Ohio in 2005.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring my friend, Dale Miller, a member of the Cuyahoga County Council with a proven dedication to serving his fellow Ohioans for more than 30 years.

HONORING GEORGE BROWN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, George Brown has served as the City Clerk of the City of Mount Vernon since 2009 and before that as Deputy City Clerk from 2004. He is a native son of the City who received his primary education there. He went on to graduate with an Associates Degree in Applied Science from the Business Institute of Westchester and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Manhattan College.

He retired from Consolidated Edison to bring his 32 years of corporate experience in Customer Service, Accounting, Conflict Resolution, and Corporate Safety to City governance. He is involved with and received awards from many community and civic organizations. He has volunteered as a Celebrity Chef Cook for the YMCA and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, was Event Co-Chairperson for Mount Vernon Relay for Life of the American Cancer Society, and Team Captain of Harlem Relay for Life of American Cancer Society.

He is a District Leader of the Mount Vernon Democrat City Committee, a member of the Black Democrats of Westchester, Past Vice President of the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, Prince Hall Mason of

the State of New York, St. Joseph Lodge #117 F&AM, having served 12 years as Grand Lecturer under five Grand Masters. He received the 33rd Degree, the highest degree in Masonry in May 2009. He has been a member of Elejmal Temple #185 of the AEAONMS INC. since 1994 and in December, 2011 was elected Illustrious Potentate of Elejmal Temple #185.

George Brown is first and foremost a family man and one who loves laughter. He is also devoutly spiritual and every Sunday you will find him at the Greater Centennial AME Zion Church, where he is a proud member.

He is a man of the community, one who is unselfish in giving to his community. It is because of people like George Brown that communities grow and prosper and I am proud to join in honoring him for his service to his community.

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION
CORPS ACT OF 2012

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join my colleague ANDER CRENSHAW in introducing the "International Conservation Corps Act of 2012" (ICCA), legislation that will mobilize our large and growing community of retired conservation experts, in a voluntary capacity, to support the efforts of developing countries to sustainably manage their natural resources.

There is a significant deficit in the capability of most developing countries to successfully manage their natural resources, which is fundamental to sustainable development, poverty alleviation, conflict avoidance, good governance, and regional security. Countries with a great wealth of natural resources are often cursed with devastating poverty, corruption and civil war arising from disputes over control and distribution of these resources.

The International Conservation Corps Act will harness the vast experience of the United States in natural resource management and connect it with developing countries to help them operate and develop more sustainable programs. Modeled after the Peace Corps, the ICCA program would offer retired land managers, both public and private sector employees, geologists, biologists, and park rangers the opportunity to volunteer their services to the foreign country. The ICCA would cover the expenses necessary to deploy volunteers in other countries such as airfare, food, and lodging. The program will utilize volunteers who have long practical experience and are respected in their fields, and who are enthusiastic about opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills to assist other countries.

Under this proposal, the State Department would screen foreign government requests for assistance. Cleared requests would be forwarded to the Interior Department which would craft a prospectus that awards competitive grants to the nonprofit that assembles the best volunteer team and most meritorious application. Federal administrative costs would be minimal, ensuring tax payer funds are spent almost exclusively on "boots on the ground." No more than \$10 million could be appropriated per year. The cost of this program